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Co-operative Societies

Reduction of the rate of interest charged by the Co-operative Societies for Adi-Dravidas.

*70 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether any proposals have been made to the Government for reducing the rate of interest charged by the Co-operative Societies for the Adi-Dravidas ?

A.—No proposals have been received by Government. The Commissioner of Labour is considering the question in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"May I know whether the Commissioner of Labour has submitted his report on the question ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—"Not yet."

Fisheries

Personnel, etc., of the Fisheries Committee.

*71 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) under what circumstances and for what objects the Fisheries Committee was appointed by Government;

(*b*) what the personnel of the Committee is, and what their qualifications are, for conducting an investigation into the several—including technical—points involved in the enquiry ;

(*c*) why no gentlemen representing the fisherman communities or the West Coast people with some first-hand knowledge of the principal fishery institutions on the West Coast were appointed as members of the Committee ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some of the fisherman communities brought this defect to the notice of Government ;

(*e*) if so, why their request was not granted ;

(*f*) whether the Committee is expected to scrutinize the policy and operations conducted by the Fisheries Department during Sir K. V. Reddi's tenure of office as Minister ; and

(*g*) why Sir K. V. Reddi was appointed as Chairman as well as member of the Committee ?

A.—(*a*) At the Finance Committee budget meeting there was considerable discussion among members regarding the Fisheries department and the Committee wished to have definite information regarding the policy and programme of research and manufacturing activities of the department. It was with reference to this desire that the Committee has been appointed.

(*b*) The following is the personnel of the Committee :—

(1) M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu Garu, *Kt.*, Chairman.

Members.

(2) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar Avargal, M.L.C.

(3) Dr. F. H. Gravely, Superintendent, Government Museum.

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(4) Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
(5) M.R.Ry. S. Arputhaswami Udayar Avargal, M.L.C.
(6) ,, P. V. Manikka Nayakar Avargal, B.E., Retired Superintending Engineer.
(7) ,, R. S. Nayudu Avargal, Chairman, Municipal Council, Madura.
(8) Mr. A. McG. C. Tampoe, I.C.S., M.L.C., Secretary to Government, Development Department.

The Government regret they cannot discuss the merits and qualifications of the members. But they have satisfied themselves that the selected gentlemen have qualifications sufficient to advise Government on the points referred to them.

(*c*) The personnel of the Committee includes members acquainted with the conditions of fishermen and with the principal fishery institutions.

(*d*) & (*e*) The suggestion of the fishermen communities that practical fishermen should be associated with the Committee came too late, and, for the reasons given in (*c*), the Government did not think it essential to adopt it.

(*f*) All the past work of the department will come under review by the Committee.

(*g*) Sir K. V. Reddi was selected as a member of the Committee in view of the invaluable knowledge he possesses of the work of the department. He was chosen as Chairman because of his personal qualifications.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*g*), in view of the fact that Sir K. V. Reddi was the Minister in charge of Fisheries, may I know whether the Government considered him a fit person to judge of the merits of the work done during his term of office ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I want to know whether Sir K. V. Reddi was asked to give his opinion of the work done in the Fisheries Department during his term of office ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for an opinion."

Answers to the Questionnaire issued by the Fisheries Committee.

*72 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Fisheries Committee was appointed, when the questionnaire was issued, and what time was given to the public for furnishing answers ;

(*b*) whether any gentleman pointed out to Government or to the Secretary of the Committee the shortness of the time allowed and the necessity for giving more time ;

(*c*) if so, what answer was given ; and

(*d*) the necessity for giving such short time for furnishing the information required ?